Industrial Development Under Common Minimum Programme

†5179. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had given an assurance to the effect that hundred districts in the country are to be industrally developed under the Common Minimum Programme;

(b) whether no action has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are considering any time-bound scheme to implement such scheme under the Common Minimum Programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Under the National Programme of Rural Industrialisation (NPRI) announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 1999-2000, 100 rural industrial clusters would be set up every year for 5 years.

(b) to (e) The programme is being implemented with the guidance and support of various central agencies namely Small Industries Development Organisaiton (SIDO), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and State Government. Action has been initiated by various agencies during 1999-2000 to set up the clusters as under:—

Name of the Agency	Number of clusters
KVIC	50
NABARD	15
SIDB	25

Controversy on Tea Industry

5180. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in The Economic Times, dated 9th April, 2000 under the caption, Controversy hits tea industry;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.